Step 1: Confirm the Trial Date

- **Review the Notice of Trial**: The non-jury trial is scheduled for **November 19, 2025, at 8:30 AM** in **Department F41** (Chatsworth Courthouse).
- **Mark Deadlines**: Note key pre-trial deadlines (e.g., discovery cutoffs, motions) on your calendar.

Step 2: Request Discovery from the Plaintiff

Goal: Force the plaintiff (American Express) to prove their case.

1. **Serve "Request for Production of Documents" (Form RPD-010)**:
    - Demand:
        - Original signed timeshare contract.
        - Proof of debt assignment to American Express.
        - Payment history/accounting of the alleged debt.
    - Deadline: Serve within **30 days** of filing your Answer.
      📎 Download Form RPD-010.
2. **Serve "Form Interrogatories" (Form DISC-001)**:
    - Ask the plaintiff to explain their evidence and legal basis for the debt.
      📎 Download Form DISC-001.

Step 3: File Pre-Trial Motions

Goal: Dismiss the case or limit the plaintiff's claims.

1. **Motion to Dismiss (Demurrer – Form PLD-030)**
    - Argue the plaintiff lacks standing (no proof of debt ownership) or the statute of limitations expired.
    - Deadline: File **30 days before trial**.
      📎 Download Form PLD-030.
2. **Motion for Summary Judgment (Form CM-110)**
    - Use if the plaintiff fails to provide critical evidence (e.g., contract, assignment).
    - Deadline: File **75 days before trial**.
      📎 Download Form CM-110.

Step 4: Negotiate a Settlement (Optional)

Goal: Avoid trial by resolving the debt for less than claimed.

1. **Contact Plaintiff's Attorney**:
    - Offer a lump-sum payment (e.g., 20–40% of the debt) in exchange for dismissal.
    - Get any agreement in writing and file it with the court.

Step 5: Prepare for Trial

Goal: Build a strong defense using evidence and witnesses.

1. **Gather Evidence**:
    - Original timeshare agreement (if available).

    - Correspondence with the original timeshare provider.
    - Proof of improper service (if applicable).
2. **Subpoena Witnesses**:
    - Use **Form SUBP-002** to compel testimony from the original creditor or plaintiff's representative.
      📎 Download Form SUBP-002.
3. **Prepare Trial Brief**:
    - Outline defenses:
        - Lack of standing (no valid assignment).
        - Statute of limitations (if debt is >4 years old).

Step 6: Attend Trial

What to Do:

- Arrive early at the Chatsworth Courthouse (Dept. F41).
- Bring:
    - Copies of your Answer, discovery responses, and evidence.
    - A list of questions for the plaintiff's witnesses.
- Argue:
    - "Plaintiff failed to prove ownership of the debt."
    - "The statute of limitations bars this claim."

Step 7: Post-Trial Actions

1. **If You Win**:
    - File a **Cost Bill (Form MC-010)** to recover court fees.
2. **If You Lose**:
    - File a **Notice of Appeal (Form APP-001)** within **60 days**.

Critical Deadlines

Action	Deadline
Serve Discovery Requests	**30 days after Answer**
File Motions to Dismiss	**30 days before trial**

Submit Trial Brief	**5 days before trial**

Key Resources

- **LA Court Self-Help Center**: www.lacourt.org/selfhelp | (818) 407-2600
- **Legal Aid**: lafla.org | (800) 399-4529

Next Step: Start discovery requests immediately to pressure the plaintiff. Let me know if you need help